

The Bottom Line

Vaughan Endoscopy Clinic (VEC) is a **state of the art** out-of-hospital endoscopy clinic providing **Screening colonoscopy and endoscopy** for the work up of mild gastrointestinal disorders. It is staffed by **gastroenterologists**.

In addition to the endoscopic services, they will provide all the necessary **GI follow-up** and make all the appropriate referrals required due to findings at the endoscopy.

The Medical Director has been an active participant at the CPSO in the development of **standards for out-of-hospital clinics**, all of which VECs adheres to.

Gastroenterologists:

Dr. William Appell
 Dr. David Ford
 Dr. Michael Gould
 Dr. Susan Greenbloom
 Dr. David Kreaden
 Dr. Eric Leong
 Dr. Michael Ostro
 Dr. Ted Ptak
 Dr. Jonathon Springer
 Dr. Rajiv Sethi
 Dr. Stephen Sinclair

In addition to high quality and convenient access to endoscopy, the doctors at VEC will provide you with supplemental practical GI advice through this periodic newsletter.

This article is written by Dr. David Ford (a gastroenterologist from Etobicoke General Hospital).

Inspection of Out-of-Hospital Premises

Since April 2010, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario has the authority to inspect out-of-hospital premises (**OHP**) where procedures require certain anesthesia, such as endoscopy and cosmetic surgery. Their mandate is to verify that safeguards typically in place in hospitals are also present at OHP facilities, thus ensuring patients receive quality care in a safe environment.

The OHP inspection focuses on standards for procedures, infection control, quality assurance standards, medical qualifications, and facility requirements (see Table 1).

The inspection-assessment team is composed of a nurse and 2 peer physicians (an endoscopist and an anesthesiologist). The team reviews the clinic's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) manual, inspects the facilities, reviews a sampling of patient records from each physician being assessed, observes procedures being conducted, and reviews credentials for all staff and physicians.

A report is generated after the inspection and all findings are provided to the Premises Inspection Committee for review and grading. The premises may receive a "Pass", "Pass with Conditions", or "Fail". The "Pass" rating is received if the clinic meets all the requirements set out in the standards document and the physicians reviewed are performing in accordance to the standards expected in Ontario.

The Vaughan Endoscopy Clinic underwent the OHP inspection recently. I am proud to inform you that, not surprisingly, **the VEC received an unconditional "Pass" grade**. Our Medical Director, Dr Michael Gould, was involved in the development of the standards for OHP inspections, thus the VEC was in compliance from its inception, and in many instances we go above and beyond the requirements. Our clinic has been open for almost 4 years and in that time we have had exemplary feedback from patients about the quality of care they have received.



**VAUGHAN
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Table 1: Out-of-Hospital Premises Inspection Standards Summary

Physical Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and Procedures Manual (including SOPs on adverse event reporting, emergency evacuation, equipment maintenance and calibration, infection control, medication handling, patient consent, etc.) • General Facilities (wheelchair accessible, to building codes, emergency power source, fire exits marked, etc. Procedure Room Facilities (adequate lighting, hand washing, surfaces smooth and washable, ventilation system, inspected equipment, maintenance records, etc.) • Recovery Area (can accommodate volume, appropriate monitoring – suction, oxygen, medical supplies, blood pressure equipment, pulse oximeter, resuscitation equipment and emergency drugs, etc.)
Medication Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication inventory, expiry dates, storage conditions, documentation, Controlled Substances regulations, etc.
Infection Control Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Precautions for body fluids, waste handling and disposal, hand sanitizer, gloves worn, disinfectant products for patient surfaces, high level disinfection of medical devices, aseptic technique, injection practices, prevention of sharps injury, etc.
Quality Assurance Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and evaluate patient care, Medical Director involvement, appropriate patient selection, timely reporting, adverse event monitoring, staff performance, qualifications of staff for role, etc.
Emergency Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPR equipment/ defibrillator, ECG monitor, intubation tray, laryngeal mask airways, oxygen source, pulse oximeter, suction, torso backboard, emergency drug inventory, etc.
Observational Component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient admission, pre-procedure assessments, patient verification, intra-operative patient care, post procedure patient care, medical records documentation, patient discharge process

The bottom line is:

The CPSO is inspecting Out-of-Hospital Premises to ensure high quality and safety standards are being met. As a referring physician, it is important for you to have confidence that the clinic you send patients to for endoscopy are meeting these rigorous standards. The Vaughan Endoscopy Clinic excels in this regard, however some other clinics in the region do not. Know with certainty that the VEC puts patient safety and quality of care first at our facility and will do our best to provide excellent service.

Our newsletters are posted on our website (www.vaughanendoscopy.com) thus your patients are able to download a copy for reference. Other GI topics of interest are published periodically.